

James Series Going Deeper

5- Day Devotional “Living Under the Will of God”

Week 13, Day 4: If the Lord Wills

Primary Verse:

Reading: James 4:15; Acts 18:18–21; Proverbs 19:21

Focus Verse:

“Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’”

James 4:15

Devotional:

James gives us the right posture for all Christian planning: “If the Lord wills.”

This is more than a phrase. It is not just something spiritual people say at the end of a sentence. James is not merely correcting vocabulary. He is correcting the posture of the heart.

“If the Lord wills” means God is Lord over my life.

God is Lord over my future.

God is Lord over my calendar.

God is Lord over my business.

God is Lord over my family.

God is Lord over my plans.

God is Lord over my opportunities.

God is Lord over my outcomes.

James says we ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

Notice the order. Before we can do this or that, we must first live. Even our breath is dependent on the will of God. We are not only dependent on God for success. We are dependent on God for life itself.

That is humbling.

We often think of God’s will only in terms of major decisions: where to move, who to marry, what job to take, what ministry to begin, what opportunity to pursue. But James goes deeper. He teaches us that every breath, every step, every ordinary decision, and every future possibility rests under the will of God.

This does not make planning meaningless. It makes planning worshipful.

The surrendered believer still plans. The surrendered believer still works. The surrendered believer still dreams. The surrendered believer still prepares. But underneath all of it is a deep confession: “Lord, this only happens if You allow it, sustain it, guide it, and bless it.”

That posture changes everything.

It changes how we respond when plans change.

It changes how we respond when doors close.

It changes how we respond when success comes.

It changes how we respond when disappointment comes.

It changes how we pray.

It changes how tightly we hold our dreams.

When our plans are truly surrendered to the Lord, we can move forward with faith and still hold everything with open hands. We can work diligently without worshiping outcomes. We can dream boldly without demanding our way. We can build faithfully without pretending we are in control.

“If the Lord wills” is the language of surrendered faith.

It says, “I am willing to move forward, but I am also willing to be redirected.”

It says, “I have desires, but God has authority.”

It says, “I will be faithful, but God is sovereign.”

It says, “My life is not mine. It belongs to the Lord.”

That is the life James is calling us into.

Reflection Questions:

Do you use “Lord willing” as a phrase, or do you live with a truly surrendered heart?

How do you usually respond when God interrupts or redirects your plans?

What plan are you willing to obey God in, but not yet willing to surrender to God?

Prayer:

Lord, I surrender my plans to You. I confess that I often want Your blessing without wanting Your authority. I want You to bless my way instead of leading me in Your way. Teach me to say with honesty, “If the Lord wills.” Give me faith to move forward, humility to be redirected, and trust to believe Your will is better than mine. Amen.

Action Step:

Before making or continuing one significant plan today, pause and pray: “Lord, if this is Your will, lead me forward. If it is not, redirect me. I trust You.”